

### Remarks


Reconsideration of the present patent application is requested. In this regard, all of the claims, except for claims 8, 9, 15 and 16, stand rejected based on prior art. Claims 8, 9, 15 and 16 stand objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 8 and 15 have been rewritten so as to be in independent form and claim 18 has been amended to incorporate the cited allowable subject matter. Also, the claims have been amended where necessary to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Additionally, Applicant filed on January 29, 2002 an Information Disclosure Statement and form PTO-1449 (4 pages) disclosing 52 references. A copy of the return receipt postcard is attached for reference along with the PTO 1449 pages disclosing the cited references. Applicant's respectfully request confirmation that such Information Disclosure Statement and references have indeed been considered by the Examiner.

### CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that all of the claims in this case are now in a condition for allowance and an indication to that effect is earnestly solicited. Furthermore, if the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of this case, the Examiner should feel free to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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